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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being faxed to the U.S. Patent Office on the date indicated above.

Attn: Examiner Jeremy Thissell

Rhonda Dunn

Rhonda Dunn

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Edwards

Docket No.: NOVA0010

Serial No. : 09/490,622

Art Unit: 3763

Filed: January 24, 2000

Examiner: J. Thissell

Title: SHRINKAGE OF DILATATIONS IN THE BODY

December 5, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
PO BOX 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

A response is provided to the Final rejection dated October 7, 2003 in the above-identified case.

1. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his remarks and observations.
2. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slepian in view of United States Patent No. 5,916,235 (Guglielmi). Applicant respectfully disagrees.